



The Blue Dog Coalition



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Blue Dogs Seek to Advance 12-Step Reform Plan

Coalition Calls for Bipartisan Action on Budget

Washington, D.C. – With the House Budget Committee set to meet tomorrow, the Blue Dog Coalition is continuing its push for reforming the way Congress budgets taxpayer dollars. Blue Dog Reps Jim Cooper (TN), Dennis Moore (KS), Harold Ford (TN), and Ed Case (HI) will lead the charge for responsibility at tomorrow's budget markup by offering several amendments taken from the Blue Dog 12-Step Reform Plan.

The Blue Dog 12-Step Reform Plan is more comprehensive and responsible than the meager attempt at reform contained in the president's budget and other reform plans being discussed in Congress. The national debt has soared over \$2 trillion under the watch of the current administration, with trillions more projected in the next 10 years under current policies. The 12 Step Reform Plan is based on the Blue Dogs' commitment to solving growing fiscal problems facing our country.

"We intend to offer common sense, bipartisan reforms that have been praised by some of the nation's most prominent budget watchdog groups," said Rep. Jim Cooper (TN), Blue Dog Co-Chair for Policy and member of the Budget Committee. "This is Chairman Nussle's chance to show that he's serious about fixing the budget process and getting the nation back on track."

Blue Dogs on the budget committee plan to bring up amendments on stopping Congress from buying on credit (pay-as-you-go), making Congress tell taxpayers how much they're spending, requiring honest cost estimates for every bill, ending the hiding of votes to raise the debt limit, and making sure new bills fit in the budget.

"Members on both sides of the aisle need to work together in a bipartisan manner to promote fiscal responsibility and honest budgeting," said Rep. Dennis Moore (KS), Blue Dog member of the Budget Committee. "If we continue to ignore the long term consequences of our budgetary actions, we will be forcing our children and grandchildren to pay a steep price for the deficits we create today."

Since their inception in 1994, the Blue Dogs have been the leading voice in Congress on the need for reasonable, common-sense solutions to our nation's budgetary woes. The Coalition's call for bipartisan action on the budget comes as the Blue Dog 12-Step Reform Plan has been praised by several organizations from both sides of the aisle dedicated to fiscal responsibility, including The Heritage Foundation, Centrists.org, Citizens Against Government Waste, National Taxpayers Union, and Taxpayers for Common Sense.

“The Blue Dogs deserve credit for putting out a strong, serious proposal to restrain runaway spending,” wrote The Heritage Foundation last month.

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